

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 DLOS-09 HA-05 MCE-00
IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /107 W
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R 241654Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7124
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBSSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6568

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y SUBJECT LINE ADDED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PCAT XM MX AR MNUC PARM PEPR
SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT;
TLATELOLCO RATIFICATION COMPLETED

REF: A) MEXICO 13480, B) BUENOS AIRES 6094 (NOTAL)

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED ARGENTINA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MEXICO CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT TALKS. (REFTEL A.) ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR ORTIZ DE ROZAS WILL REPRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT--NOT, WE ARE TOLD, SO MUCH TO LEND HIS HIGH RANK TO A DEMONSTRATION OF HIGH ARGENTINE EXPECTATIONS FOR THE TALKS, BUT RATHER BECAUSE HE WAS GOING TO MEXICO TO DEPOSIT THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION FOR THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. (SEE REF B.)

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2. GOA, IN FACT, EXPECTS LITTLE TO COME OUT OF THE TALKS, INDICATED THE OFFICIALS. ARGENTINA WILL BE THE ONLY SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRY TO ATTEND. BRAZIL HAS CLEARLY MANIFESTED ITS LACK OF INTEREST IN A REGIONAL PACT TO LIMIT ARMS. AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT BRAZIL, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMANTS, REGISTERED ITS OPINION THAT THE AYACUCHO

DECLARATION COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED MEANINGFUL AS IT DID NOT INCLUDE ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. ACCORDING TO ONE ARGENTINE DIPLOMAT, BRAZIL'S RESERVATION STIPULATED THAT REGIONAL ARMS LIMITATION MUST APPLY TO ALL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND/OR ALL REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD EVIDENTLY MEAN THE US AS A MEMBER OF THE OAS. INSISTING ON THE US AS A PARTY WOULD EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY PACT, SINCE THE US IS NOT LIKELY TO AGREE TO REGIONAL INVENTORIES OR TO CURTAIL ITS OWN ARSENALS, OBSERVED THE OFFICIAL.

3. ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT MEXICAN-VENEZUELAN RIVALRY FOR PUBLIC CREDIT AS LEADER OF A REGIONAL ARMS LIMITATION MOVEMENT WILL HURT THE MOVEMENT'S COHESIVENESS AND SERIOUSNESS. ARGENTINA SUSPECTS VENEZUELA'S MOTIVES AND BELIEVES MEXICO CAN AFFORD TO LIMIT CONVENTIONAL ARMS ONLY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT HAVE REGIONAL CONFLICTS ("EXCEPT WITH THE US") AND IS CLEARLY UNDER THE US SECURITY UNBRELLA IN CASE OF MAJOR CONFRONTATIONS. MEXICAN AMBASSADOR GONZALES GALVEZ, HOWEVER IS WELL-VIEWED BY THE ARGENTINES AND HIS PARTICIPATION ENHANCES MEXICO'S CLAIM TO SINCERITY ON REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT. PART OF THE REASON
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ARGENTINA IS ATTENDING THE MEXICO TALKS, ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS, IS TO HAVE ON RECORD GOA'S INITIAL RECEPTIVENESS TO THE ISSUE OF REGIONAL ARMS LIMITATION WHICH IT CAN POINT TO WHEN, AS EXPECTED, THE INITIATIVE BOGS DOWN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: MEXICO CITY: IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE CONFIRM THAT ARGENTINA HAS IN FACT DEPOSITED THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION FOR THE TLAZOLCO TREATY IN MEXICO CITY.
CASTRO

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